GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4962
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
NALCO ASH ACCIDENT
THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any committee to inquire into Nalco ash accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loss occurred to Government as a result thereof;

(d) the details of damages caused to Nalco Aluminium Shelter and Thermal Power Plant due to this accident;

(e) the action taken by the Government so far to fill up the cracks caused by the said accident; and

(f) the precautionary measures being adopted by the Government to prevent such accidents in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Government constituted a Committee to enquire into the NALCO ashpond breach. It was a 3 member Committee under the chairmanship of Executive Director, NTPC Eastern Region as Chairman, and, DGM(Ash Utilisation Division), NTPC and Director, Impact Assessment Division, Ministry of Environment & Forests as members. The broad terms of reference of the Committee were as follows:

(i) The reasons for breach on embankment of the ash pond of Captive Power Plant (CPP) at Angul.

(ii) The quantum of damage due to the breach.

(iii) To suggest remedial measures for avoiding future recurrence.

(c) & (d) No damages were caused to Aluminium Smelter and CPP of NALCONALCO made payment of Rs. 1121.76 lakhs through the District Administration for relief and rehabilitation of the persons/area affected by the breach for compensation for crop, damages/loss, water supply, repair and renovation of damaged infrastructure etc.

(e) & (f) Necessary repair and restoration work was carried out by NALCO and hassince been completed. A dedicated work group has been constituted for operation and maintenance of ash handling system including ash pond of CPP so that such accidents can be prevented in future.